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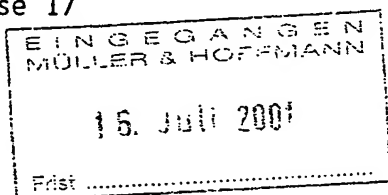
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| Zeichen/Ref./Réf. 51471 | Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°. 99103130.3-2202- |
| Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire SONY CORPORATION | |

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

☒ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: 4

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.CI.6) |
| 3x E | EP 0 936 806 A (SONY CORP) 18 August 1999 (1999-08-18) * column 10, line 35 - column 11, line 53; figures 12-15 * | 1 | H04N3/15 H04N9/04 |
| 3x A | US 5 287 192 A (IIZUKA TETSUYA) 15 February 1994 (1994-02-15) * column 1, line 18-32; figure 4 * * column 4, line 9-18 * | 1-3,5-7 | |
| 3x A | PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1997, no. 06, 30 June 1997 (1997-06-30) & JP 09 055952 A (SONY CORP), 25 February 1997 (1997-02-25) * abstract * | 1-3,5-7 | |
| P, A | & US 5 847 758 A (TETSUYA IIZUKA) 8 December 1998 (1998-12-08) * column 2, line 19-24; figure 7 * * column 2, line 64-67 * * column 3, line 58-61 * | 1-3,5-7 | |
| | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.CI.6) |
| | | | H04N |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search THE HAGUE | | Date of completion of the search 9 July 2001 | Examiner Wahba, A |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS | | | |
| X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document | | T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document | |

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 99 10 3130

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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09-07-2001

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